

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES (HPES)
351 North Mt. View Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010
(909) 387-6280 ♦ (800) 782-4262 ♦ (909) 387-6359 TDD ♦ Fax (909) 387-0102

JAMES A. FELTEN, MPA
Public Health Director

ERIC K. FRYKMAN, MD, MPH, MBA
Health Officer

CONTACT: PR #: 05-55

Jim Felten, Public Health Director
(909) 387-9146

Eric Frykman, MD, Health Officer
(909) 387-6218

DATE: September 9, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Make Emergency Preparedness A High Priority

San Bernardino, CA – September is National Preparedness Month, an annual campaign encouraging Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has been taking steps to be ready for an emergency such as a natural disaster, or even in the event of a terrorist attack.

Everyone can be better prepared by being aware of emergency procedures to protect themselves and their families. The Department of Public Health recommends taking action to prepare in the following ways:

- **Get a Kit** – Assemble a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days. Include basic items like water, food, battery powered radio, flashlight, and a first aid kit.
- **Make a Plan** - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Include a communication plan that addresses sheltering-in-place and evacuation.
- **Be Informed** - Learn more about different threats that could affect you and your community and appropriate responses to them.
- **Get Involved** – After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get involved in preparing your community by being trained in first aid and emergency response through your local American Red Cross chapter.

MARK UFFER
County Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
BILL POSTMUS.....First District DENNIS HANSBERGER.....Third District
PAUL BIANE.....Second District GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District

Public Health Director, Jim Felten stated that “Federal Homeland Security funding has allowed the County to plan for and make significant improvements in our ability to respond to public health emergencies including: laboratory equipment to collect and analyze possible biologic or chemical agents, stockpiles of medicine and vaccines; increased patient capacity for hospitals during a disaster; protective equipment for health and emergency workers; and training exercises with local police, fire, emergency medical services, hospitals, and community groups to provide better communication and response during an emergency. While it is important for the public to know how their government agencies are ready to protect people and property if a disaster strikes, it is just as important for everyone to be personally prepared to the extent possible in the event of a rare or unusual emergency situation.”

For more information on how you can be better prepared if an emergency occurs, visit the Public Health Preparedness and Response website on emergency preparedness at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/prepandresponse/>. The website will also post current news releases pertaining to Public Health emergencies affecting San Bernardino County if an emergency were to occur.

###